

important legislation was signed into law without delay.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SOCCER

• Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I would like to honor the city of Portland for hosting its first Major League Soccer All Star game on August 6. Major League Soccer, MLS, has rightly chosen Providence Park and the Portland Timbers as host for their annual All Star event, which this year pits the MLS All Stars against European giants, Bayern Munich.

Soccer City, USA—as Portland fans have dubbed it—rightly deserves to host such a high-profile match. Portland is home to the most passionate fan base in the league for both the Timbers and the inaugural champions of the National Women's Soccer League, the Portland Thorns. Timbers games drew more than 20,000 fans per game last season, and the Thorns averaged over 13,000 for home games. And, of course, I have to mention the awesome banners displayed by Portland fans at Providence Park, which are second to none.

This year, the Timbers' head coach, Caleb Porter, along with players Diego Valeri and Will Johnson, will represent our hometown team for the MLS All Stars. Congratulations to them for making all Oregonians proud. Special thanks should also go to team owner Merritt Paulson, whose hard work getting a team to Portland paid off when he was awarded this great event.

I commend the Portland Timbers, the Portland Thorns, the Timbers Army, and the Rose City Riveters for their stellar community outreach and charity work in Oregon. Whether it is partnering with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, building soccer fields for youth, or collecting school supplies for local schools, the Portland Timbers show they are a first-class organization through their outstanding civic engagement.

I send my congratulations to the MLS players who have made the All Star team and who will represent the league against an international opponent. It is exciting to host Bayern Munich, a team who fields some of the recent World Cup championship players from Germany. I wish both teams good luck in the match, but as the Timbers Army says: "There's no pity in the Rose City!" Go MLS All Stars.●

REMEMBERING IRMA DETIEGE

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I wish to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the illustrious life of Mrs. Irma Gene Hall DeTiege, who passed on July 1, 2014, after more than five decades of service in the Louisiana community.

Mrs. DeTiege was born in 1931 in Riverton, LA, which had a total popu-

lation of 40, including livestock. From these humble beginnings, she learned lessons of humility and hard work that were embodied throughout her entire life. After moving to Monroe, LA and meeting the love of her life, Frank G. DeTiege, a graduate of Southern University who taught Industrial Arts at Carroll High School, Mrs. DeTiege rode the bus to Grambling College every morning. There she received a bachelor's of science degree in elementary education, which she would later use to become a teacher at Lincoln Elementary School. During her tenure, she created enduring changes in a wide breadth of programs that impacted and improved the lives of almost every individual who attended the school.

In addition to her efforts as a teacher, Mrs. DeTiege worked tirelessly as a newspaper editor, publisher, and columnist for the Monroe News Leader and the Monroe News Weekly before she and Mr. DeTiege founded the Monroe Dispatch in 1975. Mrs. DeTiege had a vision of providing the citizens of Monroe with access to accurate reporting at a time when important information in this community was too often overlooked. Throughout her career, she remained dedicated to ensuring that those in crisis and most in need always had an advocate in the community. In this and in all of her tasks, Irma fought for a community where people are taken care of, no matter their situation in life. She also worked continuously to provide for the prosperity of Louisiana citizens for generations to come. This level of devotion to her craft, the people of Monroe, and the State of Louisiana is indicative of her storied career of service.

Irma was a wonderful friend to me and my family. She was also an inspiration to all those who were impacted by her tireless efforts. It is with my heartfelt and greatest sincerity that I ask my colleagues to join me along with her son Frank and other family members in recognizing the life and many accomplishments of this incredible leader and her impact on so many people throughout Louisiana.●

RECOGNIZING THE DELAWARE 87ERS

• Mr. COONS. Madam President, I wish to recognize the National Basketball Association's Developmental League team, the Delaware 87ers and their impact on my community.

In April 2013, Delaware sports fans rejoiced when the Philadelphia 76ers acquired an NBA Development League team, the Utah Flash, and chose to relocate the franchise to Delaware. The Delaware 87ers are named in recognition of Delaware's place in United States history as the first state to ratify the United States Constitution on December 7, 1787, as well as in a nod to the franchise's parent team, the Philadelphia 76ers.

The Sevens promised and delivered a fast-paced, high-scoring NBA brand of

action with the fan-friendliness and affordability for which the NBA Development League is known.

During their inaugural season, the Sevens' success grew, drawing a steady and passionate fan base to the Bob Carpenter Center as they squared off against D-League teams from around the country. Rivalries were built with the Canton Charge, Erie BayHawks, Fort Wayne Mad Ants and the Maine Red Claws.

The passion of the players and coaches, their connection to the community, affordable ticket prices and family-friendly amenities drew thousands of fans to Newark. Head coach Rod Baker and his team, led by fan favorites Thanasis Antetokounmpo, Kendall Marshall, Lorenzo Brown and Vander Blue, finished their first season displaying flashes of brilliance and leaving fans with high hopes for greatness to come.

Even more important than their on-court accomplishments was the team's off-court impact on the community. Prior to their inaugural season, the Sevens unveiled their SEVENS STRONG community initiative, which included revitalizing seven basketball courts in seven days, as well as each of their employees pledging 87 hours of community service throughout the year. Basketball courts that received makeovers included Adams Court, Fraim Boys & Girls Club, Kosciuszko Park, Helen Chambers Park, Tatnall Park, Woodlawn Park and Judy Johnson Park.

Throughout the 2013-14 season, the Sevens attracted more than 38,000 fans and averaged over 2,100 fans for the last eight contests. The attendance increase can undoubtedly be traced back to their commitment to the community and their tireless grassroots presence in Newark, Wilmington, Christiana, Hockessin, Newport, Elsmere and Elkton. Players and the front office staff participated in countless community-based activities including visiting Christiana Care and AI Dupont/Nemours Hospital for Children monthly, partnering with Stubbs Elementary School for a Green Week Challenge, volunteering at the Delaware Food Bank, hosting four non-profit promotions at games: Lyme Disease Awareness Night, B+ Foundation Night, Christiana Care NICU Night and USO Night, participating in more than a dozen community events, and donating over 8,000 tickets to Delaware-based community organizations and charities. The team truly embraced the meaning of community and civic engagement.

We congratulate the Delaware 87ers on a successful season, both on and off the court, and wish them continued success in their second season. We look forward to supporting them as they work to inspire their fans and better our community.●